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Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 22 and 25 are amended and claims 34-37 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 7, lines 19-23; page 12, line 6, to page 14, line 4), drawings (e.g., FIGS. 1-4), and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, and 18-37 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, and 18-21 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowance.

Claim 30 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants are deferring the rewriting of claim 30 in independent form, pending a determination of patentability of base claim 25.

Interviews on March 1 and 2, 2005:

The amendments herein follow telephone conferences between the Examiner and Robert J. Brill, applicants' attorney, and Joseph S. Hanasz, applicants' agent, on March 1 and 2, 2005 in which features of Gordon (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,786) and Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,596; "Shaffer"), claims 22 and 25, the specification, and the drawings were discussed. During the telephone conferences, positive discussions were had and agreement was reached that

an amendment to claim 22 to recite: "wherein the address comprises the domain name, the directory name, and the file name of the voicemail message in the storage device," would distinguish claim 22 over Gordon.

The time and courtesy afforded applicants' attorney and agent as well as the positive discussion had and the agreement reached, are gratefully acknowledged by applicants.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 22-28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,786). This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

Applicants have amended independent claim 22 to recite "wherein the address comprises a domain name, a directory name, and a file name of the voicemail message in the storage device." Agreement was reached during the Interview that this amendment would render claim 22 allowable over Gordon. Applicants have amended independent claim 25 presented herewith to recite limitations analogous to this amendment to claim 22.

Withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 22-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,596; "Shaffer") in view of Gordon. This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's citations to the applied references, with or without modification or combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the modification or

combination of the Office Action's citations to the applied references is proper, do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention, as further discussed below.

For explanatory purposes, applicants discuss herein one or more differences between the Office Action's citations to the applied references and the claimed invention with reference to one or more parts of the applied references. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the Office Action's citations to the applied references correspond to the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's citations to the applied references do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. A careful reading of the Office Action's citations to the applied references fails to teach or suggest, for example, wherein the first voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises the domain name, the directory name, and the file name of the voicemail message in the storage device, as recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

Shaffer (column 3, lines 22-34; FIG. 3) discloses coordination of multi-media messages across multiple systems:

[E]ach messaging system 5 generates a token for each message received at the user's mailbox(es), and then transfers the token to each of the other mailboxes. Token generation and transfer may occur immediately after reception of the message, or any predetermining time thereafter. The actual messages need not be transferred until it is known where the user is retrieving his messages (i.e., a predetermined time after the message has been received). The token comprises, for example, information identifying the mailbox, the sender, and the time and date of the message. When the user accesses a particular mailbox, the mailbox controller reads the presence of the tokens and accesses the remote mailboxes for the messages.

Shaffer discloses the messaging system that employs the token in the user's mailbox to indicate the presence of the message in the remote mailbox. The user may access the first mailbox and find the token. The token identifies the second mailbox, the sender of the message, and the time and date of the message. There is no disclosure in Shaffer that the token comprises the domain name, the directory name, and the file name of the voicemail message in the storage device. The first mailbox connects with the second mailbox to acquire the message. The message is duplicated and a copy of the message is transferred to the first mailbox. There is no disclosure in Shaffer of the incoming message being stored in a shared storage component so that two different mailboxes can access a single copy of the message by using an address of the location in the storage component where the message is stored. The messaging system of Shaffer creates two copies of the message and delivers one to each of the two mailboxes. Creating extra copies of the message uses up additional storage space.

Simply missing from the Office Action's citation to Shaffer is any mention of: wherein the first voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises the domain name, the directory name, and the file name of the voicemail message in the storage device, as recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

So, the Office Action's citation to Shaffer fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

The shortcomings of Shaffer relative to certain elements of the claimed invention have been discussed above. The Office Action proposes a combination of Shaffer with Gordon. However, Gordon does not overcome the deficiency of Shaffer. Applicants respectfully submit

that the proposed combination of Shaffer with Gordon fails to provide the required configuration, assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination of Shaffer with Gordon is proper. As discussed above, agreement was reached during the Interview that Gordon does not disclose "wherein the address comprises a domain name, a directory name, and a file name of the voicemail message in the storage device" and simply missing from the Office Action's citation to Gordon is any mention of: wherein the first voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises the domain name, the directory name, and the file name of the voicemail message in the storage device. So, the Office Action's citation to Gordon fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying the citations to Shaffer and/or Gordon to provide the claimed configuration.

For all the reasons presented above with reference to claim 22, claims 22 and 25 are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 22 and 25, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

Withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In addition, new dependent claims 34-37 presented herewith are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of the record. For example, a careful reading of the Office Action's citations to the applied references fails to teach or suggest the first and second voice mailboxes accessing the voicemail message in the storage device over the internet protocol

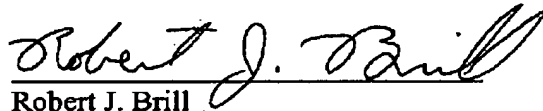
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network without going through any other mailbox, as recited in applicants' dependent claims 34 and 36 presented herewith. The remote mailboxes in both Shaffer and Gordon access another local mailbox to retrieve the voice message.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If an additional telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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